CLAIMS

We claim:

1   1.   A method for a media agent to monitor multiple broadcast transmissions, each

2   broadcast transmission containing media content, comprising:

3   identifying the broadcast transmissions to be monitored;

4   establishing connections with the identified broadcast transmissions;

5   identifying, for each connected broadcast transmission, at least one characteristic

6   of the media content associated with the connected broadcast transmission; and

7   maintaining the association between the identified at least one characteristic of

8   the media content and the connected broadcast transmission.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the broadcast transmissions are composed of

2   streaming audio data.

1   3.   The method of claim 2, wherein the broadcast transmissions are transmitted over

2   the Internet.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of identifying the at least one

2   characteristic of media content is accomplished through the use of pattern recognition

3   scheme.

1 **5.** The method of claim 4, wherein the pattern recognition scheme examines the

2 audio portion of the media content.

1 **6.** The method of claim 1, wherein the step of identifying the at least one

2 characteristic of the media content associated with each connected broadcast

3 transmission is accomplished with metadata.

1 **7.** The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 terminating the connection to the identified broadcast transmissions after the

3 step of identifying the at least one characteristic of the media content is complete; and

4 wherein the step of establishing connections with the identified broadcast

5 transmissions is not performed simultaneously for all broadcast transmissions.

1 **8.** The method of claim 7, further comprising:

2 re-establishing, when a transition in media content is expected, connections to

3 the identified broadcast transmissions whose connections were terminated.

1 **9.** The method of claim 8, wherein the expected transition in media content is based

2 on a duration of the media content.

1   **10.**   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   presenting the at least one characteristic of the media content to a user for each

3   connected broadcast transmission.

1   **11.**   The method of claim 7, further comprising:

2   receiving a selection of one of the at least one characteristic of the media content

3   from among all the at least one characteristic of the media contents presented to the

4   user; and

5   causing the user to receive the broadcast transmission associated with the

6   selected at least one characteristic of the media content.

1   **12.**   The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one characteristic of the media

2   content is a musical genre.

1   **13.**   The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one characteristic of the media

2   content is a title of a song.

1   **14.**   The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one characteristic of the media

2   content is a name of an artist.

1   **15.**   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   receiving preferred media content parameters from a user.

1   **16.**   The method of claim 11, further comprising:

2   determining whether the at least one characteristic of the media content

3   associated with each connected broadcast transmission is within the preferred media

4   content parameters; and

5   presenting a notification to the user when the at least characteristic of the media

6   content associated with each connected broadcast transmission is determined to be

7   within the preferred media content parameters.

1   **17.**   The method of claim 11, further comprising:

2   determining whether the at least one characteristic of the media content

3   associated with each connected broadcast transmission is within the preferred media

4   content parameters; and

5   causing the user to receive the broadcast transmission associated with the certain

6   type of characteristic when the at least one characteristic of the media content associated

7   with each connected broadcast transmission is determined to be within the preferred

8   media content parameters.

1   **18.**   The method of claim 11, further comprising:

2   determining whether the at least one characteristic of the media content

3   associated with each connected broadcast transmission is within the preferred media

4   content parameters; and

5   recording the broadcast transmission associated with the certain type of

6   characteristic when the at least characteristic of the media content associated with each

7   connected broadcast transmission is determined to be within the preferred media

8   content parameters.

1   **19.**   The method of claim 18, wherein recording the broadcast transmission is

2   performed for the purpose of time-shifting.

1   **20.**   The method of claim 11, further comprising:

2   accessing a pre-determined set of broadcast transmissions from an advisor

3   database where each pre-determined broadcast transmission is associated with a

4   classification;

5   wherein the step of identifying the broadcast transmissions to be monitored is

6   accomplished through an analysis of the classifications associated with the set of pre-

7   determined broadcast transmissions and the preferred media content parameters.

1   **21.**   The method of claim 15, wherein the step of classifying broadcast transmissions

2   is accomplished through a historical analysis of characteristics of media content

3   associated with each broadcast transmission to be classified.

1   **22.**   A method comprising the steps of:

2   selecting a group of broadcast transmissions to be monitored, each broadcast

3   transmission containing media content; and

4   repeating, for each broadcast transmissions in the group of broadcast

5   transmissions, the steps of

6   establishing a connection to the broadcast transmissions; and

7   identifying characteristics of the media content contained in the connected

8   broadcast transmissions through an analysis of the connected broadcast transmissions.

1   **23.**   The method of claim 17, further comprising:

2   presenting the identified characteristics of the media contents to a user.

1   **24.**   The method of claim 18, further comprising:

2   receiving from the user a selection from among the identified characteristics of

3   the media contents presented to the user; and

4   causing the user to receive the broadcast transmission that is associated with the

5   selection.

1   **25.**   The method of claim 17, further comprising:

2   receiving from the user a selection of preferred media content parameters;

3   determining whether the identified characteristics of each media content is

4   within the preferred media content parameters; and

5   notifying the user when the identified characteristics of a media content is

6   identified as being contained in a broadcast transmission within the group of broadcast

7   transmissions.

1   **26.**   A media agent comprising:

2   a user interface for a user to identify, either directly or indirectly, a plurality of

3   broadcast transmissions;

4   a network interface for receiving the plurality of identified broadcast

5   transmissions from a network;

6   a media decoder for decoding each broadcast transmission received from the

7   network; and

8   a monitoring module for identifying at least one characteristic of the decoded

9   broadcast transmission.

1   **27.**   The media agent of claim 26, wherein:

2   the user interface presents the at least one characteristic of the decoded broadcast

3   transmission to the user.

1   **28.**   The media agent of claim 27, wherein the monitoring module is additionally for

2   associating the identified at least one characteristic of the media content with the

3   broadcast transmission received from the network.